

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 106253 TOSEC 040168
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:JFC

APPROVED BY NEA - MR. SOBER

S/S -O:SGOLDSMITH

P - MR. FORBES

-----110414Z 001077 /11

P 110257Z MAY 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DOHA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT PRIORITY

INFO USINT BAGHDAD PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 106253 TOSEC 040168

EXDIS, SECRETARY'S PARTY FOR ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, US

SUBJECT: IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH IRAQ

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 106253 TOSEC 040168

1. SINCE THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS, WE HAVE BEEN RECEIVING SIGNALS OF IRAQI INTEREST IN AN IMPROVED RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S., USUALLY VIA U.S. CITIZENS. WE HAVE SENT BACK TO THE IRAQIS SIGNALS THAT WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO MOVE TOWARDS IMPROVED RELATIONS, INCLUDING RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS. DURING SADAT'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON, WE ASKED FONMIN FAHMY TO INDICATE THROUGH

EGYPTIAN CHANNELS TO THE IRAQIS THAT WE WERE READY FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS. EGYPTIAN VICE PRESIDENT MUBARAK PAID A VISIT TO BAGHDAD AND MENTIONED OUR INTEREST TO SADDAM HUSSEIN. WE ALSO MENTIONED OUR PLANS TO SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM AND KING HUSSEIN, WHO POSED NO OBJECTIONS, AS WELL AS TO IRANIAN AMBASSADOR ZAHEDI.

2. THE SECRETARY PLANS TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE WITH THE SHAH DURING HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO TEHRAN, AS WELL AS WITH GROMYKO DURING HIS GENEVA MEETING. WITH GROMYKO, THE SECRETARY MAY ASK WHETHER THE SOVIETS COULD HELP INFLUENCE THE IRAQIS AWAY FROM THEIR MILITANT REJECTIONIST POLICIES, WHICH ARE DISRUPTIVE TO PEACE EFFORTS.

3. WITH FOREGOING AS BACKGROUND, ACTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD INFORM HOST GOVERNMENT AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF OUR PRESENT POSITION, MAKING THE FOLLOWING GENERAL POINTS:

-- PRESIDENT CARTER'S ADMINISTRATION, IN KEEPING WITH A DESIRE FOR THE WIDEST POSSIBLE GOOD RELATIONS AROUND THE WORLD, WOULD LIKE TO TAKE STEPS TO IMPROVE U.S.-IRAQI RELATIONS. IN RECENT MONTHS, WE HAVE BEEN RECEIVING SIGNALS OF IRAQI INTEREST IN IMPROVING RELATIONS, AND WE IN TURN RESPONDED THROUGH VARIOUS CHANNELS THAT WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO MOVE TOWARD A MORE NORMAL RELATIONSHIP, INCLUDING THE RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

-- THE SECRETARY HAS NOW OFFERED TO SEND UNDER SECRETARY PHILIP HABIB TO BAGHDAD IN MID-MAY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 106253 TOSEC 040168

THEIR FORTHCOMING TRIP TO TEHRAN. HABIB WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS WAYS OF IMPROVING U.S.-IRAQI RELATIONS, INCLUDING THE REESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITHOUT PRE-CONDITIONS. IF THIS IS PREMATURE FOR THE IRAQIS, WE ARE WILLING TO EXPLORE OTHER MEANS OF DEVELOPING A MORE OPEN AND NORMAL RELATIONSHIP THAT WOULD PERMIT REGULAR EXCHANGES OF VIEWS ON ISSUES OF CONCERN TO BOTH OUR GOVERNMENTS.

--WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED A RESPONSE FROM THE IRAQIS TO OUR SUGGESTION OF A VISIT BY HABIB. WE WILL, HOWEVER, KEEP YOUR GOVERNMENT INFORMED OF WHAT TRANSPIRES IN THIS INITIATIVE AS WELL AS OF ANY OTHER NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN U.S.-IRAQI RELATIONS.

--BEYOND OUR GENERAL DESIRE FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH STATES WHICH HAVE BEEN POLITICALLY HOSTILE, WE HOPE, IN IRAQ'S CASE, THAT IT MIGHT EASE ITS MILITANT POLICIES OF OPPOSITION TO A NEGOTIATED MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT.

4. FOR CAIRO, DAMASCUS, AND AMMAN. PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING ADDED POINT:

--OUR DECISION TO OFFER TO SEND HABIB TO BAGHDAD FOR DISCUSSIONS WAS TAKEN AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT ABOUT OUR INTEREST IN IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH IRAQ, AND AFTER WE HAD SATISFIED OURSELVES THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT HAD NO OBJECTIONS TO OUR SEEKING IMPROVED RELATIONS. YOU MAY BE ASSURED THAT ANY IMPROVEMENT IN US-IRAQI RELATIONS WILL NOT BE AT THE EXPENSE OF OUR RELATIONS WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT, WHICH WE VALUE HIGHLY AND WHICH IS VITAL TO THE PROGRESS WE BOTH SEEK TOWARDS A GENERAL MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT.

5. FOR ALGIERS: PLEASE MAKE THE ADDED FOLLOWING POINT TO HAMDANI OR OTHER APPROPRIATE CONTACT:

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 106253 TOSEC 040168

-- WE RECALLED HOW USEFUL FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW THE RECENT VISIT OF HABIB TO ALGIERS HAD BEEN. IN THIS SPIRIT, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF BOUMEDIENNE SUGGESTED TO SADDAM HUSSEIN THAT A VISIT BY HABIB TO BAGHDAD COULD BE USEFUL AND THAT SADDAM HUSSEIN MIGHT CONSIDER SEEING HABIB HIMSELF.

6. FOR JIDDA: PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING ADDED POINT: -- WE RECOGNIZE THAT THERE HAVE BEEN OCCASIONAL FRICTIONS IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN IRAQ AND SOME OF ITS NEIGHBORS. WE BELIEVE THAT A MORE OPEN RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. MIGHT ENCOURAGE THE IRAQIS EVENTUALLY TO ADOPT A MORE COOPERATIVE, CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN THE GULF. WE WOULD WELCOME YOUR GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS.

7. FOR KUWAIT, MANAMA, ABU DHABI, DOHA, AND MUSCAT. DO NOT RPT NOT APPROACH HOST GOVERNMENTS UNTIL WE HAVE AUTHORIZATION FROM SECRETARY'S PARTY (SEE BELOW). AT THAT TIME, MAKE ADDED POINT IN PARA 6 ABOVE.

8. FOR ATHERTON IN SECRETARY'S PARTY: PLEASE CONFIRM THAT GULF POSTS SHOULD INFORM HOST GOVERNMENTS.

9. FOR TEL AVIV: WE WILL BE INFORMING THE ISRAELIS HERE. CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, MINISTERIAL VISITS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE106253
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MDRAPER:JFC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770165-0189
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770570/aaaachwf.tel
Line Count: 164
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bbacba96-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2566762
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH IRAQ SECRET SECRET
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, PGOV, IZ, US, (HABIB, PHILIP C)
To: SECRETARY ALGIERS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bbacba96-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009